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**Portland Police Association Launches Public Safety Awareness Campaign**

***Campaign urges politicians and city leaders to prioritize public safety over politics***

**PORTLAND, OR**—Billboards are going up throughout Portland today to raise awareness for public safety concerns as shootings and gun violence continue to skyrocket throughout the greater metro area. With this effort, the Portland Police Association (PPA) is urging politicians and city leaders to prioritize public safety over politics by fully funding and staffing the Portland Police Bureau (PPB). Devaluing community safety as a critical part of our city's infrastructure is having devastating effects and crime victims are paying the price.

There were 388 shootings in 2019, 891 shootings in 2020, and in just the first half of 2021, there have been over 567 shootings—more than twice the number recorded during the same period in 2020.

For the last decade, the PPA has consistently advocated for a fully funded and staffed Police Bureau while recruitment and retention efforts waned. Hiring hasn't matched





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attrition, leaving our city's first responders catastrophically understaffed. Our communities deserve enough police officers to meet public safety priorities including:

- Proactively policing to prevent crime;
- Responding to calls for service;
- Prioritizing the needs of crime victims;
- Investigating and solving crimes;
- Addressing the deadly surge in gun and gang violence;
- Serving those who are impacted by livability issues surrounding homelessness;
- Assisting those suffering in mental health crises;
- Engaging in proactive community policing in our neighborhoods; and
- Ensuring the safety of Portlanders and our officers.

As Portland's population has grown by over 170,000 people in the last 20 years, there are fewer officers now than in 1999. "Inadequate staffing in the Police Bureau is hurting our communities and putting all of us at risk," said Daryl Turner, Executive Director of the PPA. "Nothing is more basic to the livability of a city than public safety. We desperately need City leaders to take action, fund and staff our Police Bureau, and put politics aside and public safety first."

Visit [ProtectPortland.org](https://ProtectPortland.org) to read about the initiative and sign the online petition asking politicians and city leaders to invest in keeping our city safe.

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